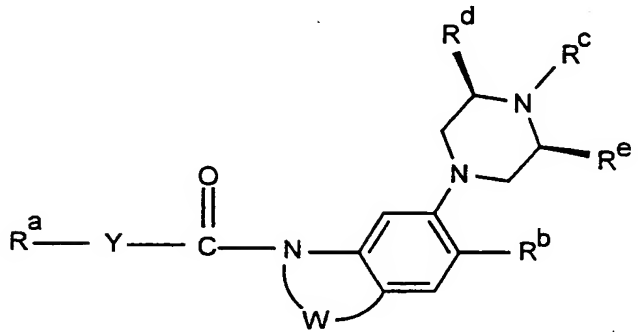
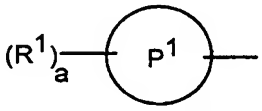
CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



(I)

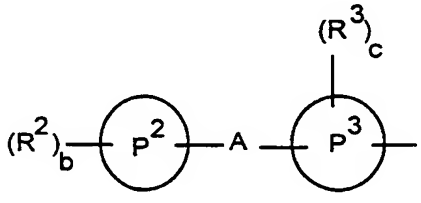
in which R^a is a group of formula (i)



(i)

wherein P^1 is phenyl, naphthyl or heteroaryl;
R^1 is halogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, COC_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, hydroxy, hydroxyC_{1-6}alkyl, nitro, CF_3, cyano, SR^6, SOR^6, SO_2R^6, $SO_2NR^6R^7$, CO_2R^6, $CONR^6R^7$, $OCONR^6R^7$, NR^6R^7, $NR^6CO_2R^7$, $NR^6CONR^7R^8$, $CR^6{=}NOR^7$ where R^6, R^7 and R^8 are independently hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl;
a is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

or R^a is a group of formula (ii)



(ii)

wherein
P^2 is phenyl, naphthyl, heteroaryl or a 5 to 7 membered heterocyclic ring;
P^3 is phenyl, naphthyl or heteroaryl;
A is a bond or oxygen, carbonyl, CH_2 or NR^4 where R^4 is hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl;

R^2 is as defined above for R^1 in formula (i) or R^2 is heteroaryl optionally substituted by C_{1-6}alkyl, halogen or COC_{1-6}alkyl or is a 5 - 7 membered heterocyclic ring optionally substituted by oxo;
R^3 is halogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, COC_{1-6}alkyl, hydroxy, nitro, CF_3, cyano, CO_2R^6, $CONR^6R^7$, NR^6R^7 where R^6 and R^7 are as defined above;
b and c are independently 0, 1, 2 or 3;

Y is a single bond, CH_2, O or NR^5 where R^5 is hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl;
W is $-(CR^9R^{10})_t-$ where t is 2, 3 or 4 and R^9 and R^{10} are independently hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl or W is a group -CH=CH-;
R^b is hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, C_{1-6}alkyl, CF_3 , COC_{1-6}alkyl, cyano or C_{1-6}alkoxy;
R^c is hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl;
R^d and R^e are independently C_{1-4}alkyl.

2. A compound according to claim 1 in which R^a is a group of formula (i) wherein P^1 is phenyl.

3. A compound according to claim 2 in which R^1 is halogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, nitro, CF_3 or cyano.

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4. A compound according to any of the preceding claims in which Y is CH_2.

5. A compound according to claim 1 in which R^a is a group of formula (ii) wherein A is a single bond, P^3 is phenyl or naphthyl and P^2 is phenyl, pyridyl, pyrazinyl, oxadiazolyl, oxazolyl or piperidinyl.

6. A compound according to any of the preceding claim in which W is $-CH_2-CH_2-$ or -CH=CH-.

7. A compound according to any of the preceding claims in which R^c is hydrogen or methyl.

8. A compound according to any of the preceding claims in which R^d and R^e are both methyl.

9. A compound according to claim 1 which is a compound E1 - E73 (as described above) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

10. A compound according to claim 1 which is

cis-1-[(2-chloro-3-trifluoromethylphenyl)acetyl]-6-(3,4,5-trimethylpiperazin-1-yl)indole,
cis-1-[(2-fluoro-3-trifluoromethylphenyl)acetyl]-5-methoxy-6-(3,4,5-trimethylpiperazin-1-yl)indoline,
cis-1-[(2,3-dichlorophenyl)acetyl]-6-(3,5-dimethylpiperazin-1-yl)-5-methoxyindoline
cis-6-(3,5-dimethylpiperazin-1-yl)-5-methoxy-1-[4-(2-methyl-6-(2-oxopyrrolidin-1-yl)pyridin-3-yl)benzoyl]-indoline,
cis-1-[(3-chloro-2-fluorophenyl)acetyl]-6-(3,5-dimethylpiperazin-1-yl)-5-methoxyindole,
cis-1-[(2-fluoro-3-trifluoromethylphenyl)acetyl]-5-fluoro-6-(3,4,5-trimethylpiperazin-1-yl)indole,
cis-1-[2-chloro-3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)aminocarbonyl]-5-methyl-6-(3,4,5-trimethylpiperazin-1-yl)indoline
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

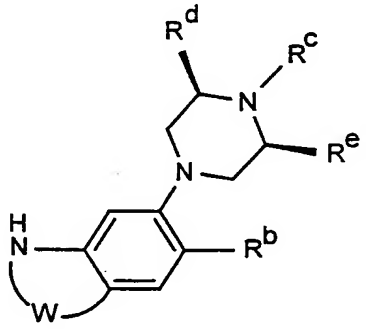
11. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof which comprises:

(a) where Y is NH, coupling a compound of formula (II):

$$R^a\text{–N-(C = O)}$$

(II)

in which R^a is as defined in formula (I) with a compound of formula (III):



(III)

in which W, R^b, R^c, R^d and R^e are as defined in formula (I); or

(b) where Y is NR^5, reacting a compound of formula (IV)

$$R^a\text{-}NR^5H$$

(IV)

in which R^a and R^5 are as defined in formula (I) with a compound of formula (III) as defined above together with an appropriate urea forming agent; or

(c) where Y is a single bond, CH_2 or O, reacting a compound of formula (V)

$$R^a\text{-}Y\text{-}(C{=}O)\text{-}L$$
(V)

in which R^a is as defined in formula (I) and L is an appropriate leaving group, with a compound of formula (III) as defined above;
and optionally thereafter for process (a), (b) or (c):

- removing any protecting groups,
- converting a compound of formula (I) into another compound of formula (I),
- forming a pharmaceutical acceptable salt.

12. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 10 for use in therapy.

13. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 10 for use in the treatment of depression.

14. A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a compound according to any of claims 1 to 10 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

15. A compound of formula (I) as defined in any one of claims 1 to 10 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use in the treatment or prophylaxis of diseases or disorders where an antagonist of the $5\text{-}HT_{1B}$ receptor is beneficial.

16. The use of a compound of formula (I) as defined in any one of claims 1 to 10 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prophylaxis of diseases or disorders where an antagonist of the $5\text{-}HT_{1B}$ receptor is beneficial.